

1 **WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

2 1. A method comprising:
3 receiving a message at a routing node in an overlay network; and
4 generating a routing policy for another node based at least in part on content
5 of the message.

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7 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising modifying the address of
8 the message, and generating the routing policy based the modified address.

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10 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising passing the message to
11 the application level at the routing node to process the message.

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14 4. The method of claim 1, wherein generating the routing policy is at an
15 application level in the routing node.

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18 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising returning the routing
19 policy to a sending node.

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22 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising forwarding the message
23 to another node in the overlay network.

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1 7. A method comprising:

2 identifying at least one routing policy for a message based on content of the
3 message; and

4 changing an address in the message to bypass at least one node in an
5 overlay network based on the at least one routing policy.

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7 8. The method of claim 7, further comprising issuing the message
8 directly to a destination node in the overlay network.

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11 9. The method of claim 7, further comprising iteratively applying a
12 plurality of routing policies to the message, each of the plurality of routing policies
13 modifying the address in the message.

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16 10. The method of claim 7, further comprising receiving the at least one
17 routing policy at a sending node in the overlay network.

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20 11. The method of claim 7, further comprising receiving a plurality of
21 routing policies at a sending node from a plurality of routing nodes in the overlay
22 network.

1 12. The method of claim 7, wherein identifying at least one routing
2 policy is based at least in part on the address of the message.
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5 13. The method of claim 7, further comprising applying a transport
6 policy to the message after changing the address in the message.
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9 14. The method of claim 7, further comprising applying a transport
10 policy to the message only after applying each identified routing policy to the
11 message.
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1 15. A system comprising:
2 a routing node receiving a message in an overlay network; and
3 a message processor at the routing node, the message processor generating a
4 routing policy for another node of the message based at least in part on content of
5 the message.
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8 16. The system of claim 15, further comprising a routing table
9 operatively associated with the routing node, the message processor generating the
10 routing policy based on entries in the routing table.
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13 17. The system of claim 15, wherein the routing node includes a
14 messaging level and an application level, the routing node generating the routing
15 policy at the application level.
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18 18. The system of claim 15, wherein the routing node includes a
19 messaging level and an application level, the routing node returning the routing
20 policy to a sending node at the messaging level.
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1 19. The system of claim 15, wherein the routing node includes a
2 messaging level and an application level, the routing node forwarding the message
3 to another node in the overlay network at the messaging level.
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1 20. A system comprising:

2 at least one routing policy for a message; and

3 a messaging module changing an address in the message at the sending

4 node to bypass at least one node in an overlay network based on the at least one

5 routing policy.

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7 21. The system of claim 20, wherein the messaging module changes the

8 address for the message so that the message is issued directly to a destination node

9 in the overlay network.

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11 22. The system of claim 20, further comprising a policy manager to

12 identify the at least one routing policy to the messaging module based at least in

13 part on content of the message.

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15 23. The system of claim 20, wherein the at least one routing policy is

16 generated by at least one routing node in the overlay network.

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18 24. The system of claim 20, further comprising a transport policy

19 identifying a transport protocol for the message based on the address in the

20 message.

1 25. A computer program product encoding a computer program for
2 executing on a computer system a computer process, the computer process
3 comprising:

4 receiving a message at a routing node in an overlay network; and
5 generating a routing policy for another node of the message based at least in
6 part on content of the message.

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8 26. The computer program product of claim 25 wherein the computer
9 process further comprises identifying an address to route the message, and
10 generating the routing policy based the address.

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13 27. The computer program product of claim 25 wherein the computer
14 process further comprises passing the message to the application level at the
15 routing node to process the message.

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18 28. The computer program product of claim 25 wherein the computer
19 process further comprises generating the routing policy at an application level in
20 the routing node.

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23 29. The computer program product of claim 25 wherein the computer
24 process further comprises returning the routing policy to a sending node.

1 30. The computer program product of claim 25 wherein the computer
2 process further comprises forwarding the message to another node in the overlay
3 network.
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1 31. A computer program product encoding a computer program for
2 executing on a computer system a computer process, the computer process
3 comprising:

4 identifying at least one routing policy for a message based on content of the
5 message; and

6 changing an address in the message to bypass at least one node in an
7 overlay network based on the at least one routing policy.

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10 32. The computer program product of claim 31 wherein the computer
11 process further comprises issuing the message in the overlay network directly to a
12 destination node.

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14 33. The computer program product of claim 31 wherein the computer
15 process further comprises iteratively applying a plurality of routing policies to the
16 message, each of the plurality of routing policies changing the address in the
17 message.

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20 34. The computer program product of claim 31 wherein the computer
21 process further comprises receiving the at least one routing policy at a sending
22 node in the overlay network.

1 35. The computer program product of claim 31 wherein the computer
2 process further comprises receiving a plurality of routing policies at a sending
3 node from a plurality of routing nodes in the overlay network.
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5 36. The computer program product of claim 31 wherein the computer
6 process further comprises identifying at least one routing policy based at least in
7 part on the address in the message.
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10 37. The computer program product of claim 31 wherein the computer
11 process further comprises applying a transport policy to the message after
12 changing the address in the message.
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14 38. The computer program product of claim 31 wherein the computer
15 process further comprises applying a transport policy to the message only after
16 applying each identified routing policy to the message.
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